



SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Conference News and Announcements



On January 31st the first of the Awareness/Education meetings concerning the plans of a financial campaign for the future of the mission and ministry of the Southeast Conference was held with **First Congregational Christian UCC, Birmingham, AL** serving as host. 21 leaders and pastors were present. From Montgomery we welcomed **Unity UCC and Community Congregational UCC**. Present from Birmingham were **Beloved UCC, and Pilgrim Congregational UCC**. **United Church UCC, Huntsville** was represented, as was **Pleasant Hill Community UCC**. A Power Point was shown and considerable discussion followed as to the focus and purpose of the campaign. The feedback received was significant in helping us continue to shape the case for support. Leaders of the event included **Barbara Everett**, a member of **Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN**, and **Vanessa Robbs**, Moderator of the Conference, and member of **Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga**. From the Conference staff **Tim Downs** and **Cameron Trimble** were present. Representing the Board of Directors were **Dorinda Broadnax** of **Community Congregational UCC**, and **Debora Murray** of **Unity UCC**, both in Montgomery.

The **Southeast Conference** continues its exploration of the **feasibility of a campaign to support the mission and ministry of the Conference** in an additional four Awareness/Education Meetings Those meetings have been scheduled on Saturdays at beginning at 11:00A as follows:

- February 28, 2009 **Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville**
- March 14, 2009 **Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta**
- March 28, 2009 **Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga**
- April 18, 2009 **Midway Congregational UCC, Midway, GA**

Following a presentation and discussion, there will be a lunch served. All ministers and leaders of the Conference are encouraged to attend one of these meetings. Please contact Gerri at ghudson@secucc.org to make reservations for a meeting of your choosing if you have not already. There will be no solicitation! We will continue to evaluate the feedback we have received and prepare to bring a recommendation to the floor of the Annual Meeting of the Conference concerning a financial campaign for the future of the mission and ministry of the Southeast Conference.

The **2009 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference UCC** will be held in the Atlanta area June 11-13. Our theme will be "Transforming Churches Transforming Lives", with a variety of workshops designed to equip churches for vitality in their ministries. We are pleased to announce that we will be hosted by **Sandy Springs Christian Church**, in the near Northern tier of Atlanta. **Sandy Springs Christian Church** is a member of the **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** an ecumenical partner of the UCC. We hope to celebrate this relationship as a part of the meeting. UCC congregations of the Atlanta area will be called on to host the meeting. Please circle the dates in your calendar, and look for details as the plans develop. We know that we will be welcoming as a keynoter **Steve Sterner**, the **Acting Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries of the UCC**, and a member of **Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta**. Other keynoters will be announced once confirmed.

The **Annual Meeting of the Georgia-South Carolina Association** will be held on Saturday, **April 4th**, and hosted by one of our newest churches, **Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, SC** (www.goguucc.com). The theme of our keynoter, Associate Conference Minister **Kathy Clark** will be "Ministry—for Such a Time as This". The meeting will start at 9:00A and end at 1:30P. Breakfast and lunch will be served. The



Register for a 2009 SEC Association Meeting.



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Association will also conduct an **Ecclesiastical Council for Ben Rose**, a candidate for ordination, a member of **Central Congregational UCC**, and hospice chaplain. Registration and details have been mailed to all the churches, and are available on line at www.secucc.org, at the upper right of the home page.

The Alabama-Tennessee Association announces its **Annual Meeting** to be held April 24-25, also hosted by one of our newest congregations, Holy Trinity Community Church, UCC, in Nashville. The event will begin on Friday evening at 4:00P and conclude with lunch on Saturday. The theme? Ministry—For Such a Time as This! The keynoter for the occasion is **Marti Baumer**, recently retired from the faculty of **Eden Theological Seminary**; Marti has been working closely on the Ministry Issues Pronouncement Implementation. Worship will be led by Holy Trinity Drama Team. Registration and information have been sent to all congregations, and is also available on line. You can register and pay on line by going to www.secucc.org, and you will find the information at the top right of the home page.

Summary of January 24th Board of Directors Meeting

The **Board of Directors of the Conference** took the following actions at its meeting:

- Reviewed the 2008 Treasurer's Report and celebrated the increase of Our Church's Wider Mission) OCWM Basic Support in 2008 over 2007.
- Approved a Preliminary 2009 Budget for the Southeast Conference that includes a deficit of \$80,000 at this time.
- Received a report on the campaign to support the future mission and ministry of the Conference.
- Reviewed and approved the decision to discontinue the publication of *Voices and Visions*
- Approved the renewal the appointment of the Advisory Committees for TAP (Theology Among the People) and new Church Development, and the Ministry Task Force of the Conference.
- Approved a **"Friends of the Conference" Campaign** to give people opportunities to make individual contributions to the ministries of the Conference, and to OCWM. The first step of the Campaign will be to recruit 100% participation from the Board members themselves.
- Received an enthusiastic report from the TAP Advisory Committee about its work and expansion. The Committee reported the growth of the program, and the increasing number of classes that are being held on line.

Circle your calendars for a work camp organized by the Southeast Conference Disaster Assistance Relief Team, November 29–December 5, 2009. We need 40 people to go to Biloxi MS to assist Back Bay Mission with their continued work to rebuild lost homes from Hurricane Katrina. The cost to the volunteers will be \$100 for lodging and food for the week. Start to recruit groups from you church! For details contact Connie Waidmann at cbwaidphtn@frontiernet.net or by calling (931) 277-5529.

Posted on February 27, 2009

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